JEWELRY

Like most other civilized peoples, the Chinese have developed jewelry. Jewelry has been, naturally, chiefly for purposes of ornamentation, but, although by no means to the same extent as in India, it has also been a means of saving capital against the proverbial rainy day. In its manufacture, Chinese craftsmen have developed no little taste. Neither by foreigners nor by the Chinese, however, has it been ranked as a maior class of the fine arts. It is interesting that some of the stones regarded as most precious in other parts of the world, among them the diamond, have not been esteemed so very highly.

TEXTILES

It is not surprising that a people who have used silk for so long have developed marked skill in the manufacture of textiles. Certainly for many centuries the Chinese have been producing silk cloths of many different kinds. They have made brocades, they have interwoven silk with gold threads, and they have manufactured velvets and satins. They have incorporated many designs into their cloth — flowers, birds, elaborate geometrical patterns, and even landscapes and scenes from life or from mythology and religion. Embroideries, large and small, have been produced, some of them for clothes and some for screens and hangings.
Portraits and congratulatory inscriptions may be embroidered
Many beautiful garments have been made, for, if they can afford it, both men and women wear silk, often of varied colors and of exquisite design. Official robes for state occasions were especially ornate, and a formal court gathering was gorgeous in its dress.
Tapestries have been produced, although the art of weaving them

seems to have come in from abroad. In the case of at least some kinds of carpets and rugs the methods and models appear to have been of foreign origin.

Silk was by no means the only material utilized for textiles. The fibers of several kinds of plants were employed. It will be recalled that the nankeens much prized by our great-grand-parents were cotton fabrics imported from China. Wool, too, has been woven, much of it going into rugs, and camel's hair has been used for the same purpose. The "Peking rugs" so popular among West-